

Departmental News

CHE SENIOR NOMINATED FOR NATIONAL SPORTS AWARD



Emmanuel Gatling, a senior in CHE, is pictured at left at Cook Elementary in Columbus (from 10/29/10 issue of *Starkville Dispatch*) and in uniform as #48 as a starting outside linebacker for the bowl-bound MSU Bulldogs. Emmanuel was recently nominated by the University for the **Fourth Annual College Football Rudy Awards**. Voting is open to fans until December 13.

http://www.mstateathletics.com/ViewArticle.dbml?SPSID=90889&SPID=10997&DB_LANG=C&ATCLID=205040181&DB_OEM_ID=16800

CHE NAMED TO BAGLEY COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING DISTINGUISHED FELLOWS



Jerry C. Welch, a 1972 BS in Chemical Engineering was named to the 2010 Class of Distinguished Fellows by the Bagley College of Engineering.

Welch is senior vice president of refining for Marathon Petroleum Co. LLC, a position he assumed on January 1, 2007. He oversees operations for Marathon's seven petroleum refineries and 3,900 refining employees. Welch also manages more than \$6 billion in major refinery projects including construction of the first new U.S. refinery in the last 33 years.

For more information about Jerry Welch, his career and family, please see the full article at the Bagley College of Engineering website:

<http://www.bagley.msstate.edu/people/distinguishedfellows/index.php>

MSU AIChE CHAPTER WINS

OUTSTANDING STUDENT CHAPTER AWARD

For the 10th consecutive year, the Mississippi State AIChE Student Chapter received the *National Outstanding Student Chapter Award* for the 2009-10 academic year at the November 2010 AIChE Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City. Awarded annually to 15 chapters (of over 165 chapters across the nation), this recognition is given as a result of student membership and activities in local, regional and national events. The level of service activities in MSU's chapter has been noted at the national level as being among the strongest among the nation's AIChE student chapters. **Congratulations to Dr. Elmore and all of the student members!**

2010

EPTING/MATHEWS CO-OP STUDENT OF THE YEAR



In October **Sam Sullivan**, a CHE senior, received the **2010 Epting/Mathews Co-op Student of the Year Award**. Pictured from left to right are Dr. Luther Epting (retired Career Center Director), Sam Sullivan, Mike Mathews (retired Career Center Associate Director), Nate Johnson (Sam's supervisor at Georgia Gulf Chemicals and Vinyls in Aberdeen, MS), and Doug Knittig (Plant Manager at Georgia Gulf). For additional information on the award and the honoree, please see the website: <http://www.coop.msstate.edu/sullivan.php>

2010 ATLY AND BETTE JEFcoat STUDENT AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERS AWARD

Emily Blaylock, a 2010 May graduate, received the annual Jefcoat Award at the 2010 Senior Convocation held at the conclusion of each spring semester. The award established by Hunter W. Henry is given to the senior student who demonstrated leadership in the School and who made positive contributions to the advancement of the student chapter of AIChE.



Departmental News



Dr. Keisha B. Walters, along with Dr. Judy Schneider from the Mechanical Engineering Department, was awarded the **Best Paper Award at the 2010 Southeastern Regional ASEE Conference** for their contribution titled “Interdisciplinary and Experiential

Approach Towards the Teaching of Materials Science and Engineering.”

Dr. Walters is honored to have been inducted into the **Bagley College of Engineering Academy of Distinguished Teachers** this spring. Her nomination was based upon student nominations, recommendations from students and colleagues, and her teaching portfolio.

ChE faculty made in-roads to getting middle school students interested in science, mathematics, and engineering through an out-reach event for a 5th grade class at Ward-Stewart



Elementary School in Starkville, MS. The lesson and hands-on experiments on polymers led by Dr. Walters got the students discussing science fundamentals and engineering applications and demonstrating them to one another. It was an event that was fun (and educational) for everyone involved. (See more information about this program at the following websites: <http://www.msstate.edu/web/media/detail.php?id=4804> and <http://www.cdipatch.com/news/article.asp?aid=4778>)



Dr. Bill Elmore was appointed **Interim Director of the Swalm School of Chemical Engineering** on January 16, 2010, upon the retirement of Dr. Mark G. White. Dr. Elmore who has been a member of the faculty since August 2005 also serves as the Hunter Henry Chair in Chemical

Engineering. The Henry Chair is an endowed position and is focused primarily on undergraduate development activities. Dr. Elmore will serve in the interim position until a new Director is appointed. The search is active and the position has been advertised in *Chemical Engineering Progress* and on a number of academic websites.

Dr. Rafael Hernandez was named the **Texas Olefins Professor** early in 2010. The Texas Olefins Professorship was established through a gift to the School from the late Dave Swalm and is awarded to a Chemical Engineering faculty member who has demonstrated excellence in teaching, research, and service. Dr. Hernandez is the third to hold this professorship since it was established in 2000.



Dr. Hernandez has also been named an **Associate Director of the Sustainable Energy Research Center (SERC)**.

The SERC was established in 2006 at MSU through funding from the US Department of Energy (DOE) to create an infrastructure for coordinated interdisciplinary collaboration in the development of environmentally and economically sustainable energy sources specific to the Southeastern United States. (<http://www.serc.msstate.edu>)

The SERC organized and sponsored the **2010 Biofuels Conference** (<http://www.biofuelsconference.msstate.edu>) held in Jackson, MS, on August 12-13, 2010. The conference brings together researchers and experts from academia and industry to discuss the development of the next generation of biofuels and progress toward commercialization. In support of this conference, Dr. Hernandez and Dr. Todd French were awarded a National Science Foundation grant.

Hernandez was named to the **Southeastern Conference (SEC) Academic Leadership Development Program (ALDP)** at MSU. The ALDP seeks to develop academic leaders through workshops and programs throughout the academic year at the various SEC campuses.



Dr. Priscilla Hill has completed her term as **Director of the Separations Division of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE)**. She was recognized by Nicholas Urbanski of the Separations Division for her service in that position at the awards

banquet at the November AIChE meeting in Salt Lake City.

Dr. Todd French presented an invited lecture at the University of Arkansas in early 2010. In June Dr. French, along with Dr. Hernandez, was awarded \$1M for Phase II of a project with General Atomics that researches development of sewage sludge into biofuels.





Departmental News

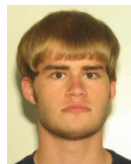


Adebola Coker, a PhD student in CHE and directed by Dr. Rafael Hernandez, was the **First Prize winner of the Poster Competition at the 9th Annual Southern Bioproducts & Renewable Energy Conference** (April 2010) for her poster entitled “Effect of Water on Base-Catalyzed Methanol Transesterification of Soybean Oil over Promoted Hydrotalcite-Derived Catalysts”. Ms. Coker is also the recipient of a **2010-2011 Bagley College of Engineering Fellowship**.

Emmanuel Revellame, a PhD candidate also under the direction of Dr. Rafael Hernandez, was the **winner of the CHE Graduate Student Paper Competition** held earlier this year. His paper entitled “Biodiesel from Activated Sludge through *In situ* Transesterification” was published in the *Journal of Chemical Technology and Biotechnology*, Volume 85, Issue 5, pages 614-620, in May 2010.



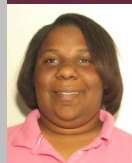
Erick Vasquez, a PhD student working for Dr. Keisha B. Walters, is the recipient of three honorable distinctions to date in 2010. He has been selected as a **2010-2011 BCoE Bagley PhD Fellow**, received the **1st place award in the Computational Biological Simulation Division at the 2010 MS NSF EPSCoR Meeting**, and was selected as a **participant in the 12th National School on Neutron and X-ray Scattering** to be conducted at the Argonne and Oak Ridge National Laboratories this summer.



Undergraduate researcher, **Matthew J. Young**, received the **1st place award in the Life Sciences Division of the 2010 MSU Undergraduate Research Symposium** for his poster on the “Temperature and pH Response of Poly(2-(diethylamino)ethyl methacrylate) Polymer Brushes Grafted on Silicon Substrates by *In-situ* Spectroscopic Ellipsometry Measurements.” The work presented was performed with his graduate student mentor, Erick Vasquez, and research advisor, Dr. Keisha B. Walters

AIChE Student Chapter Service Projects/Events in 2010

- **30** AIChE members volunteered at the Palmer Children’s Home Thrift store.
- Members volunteered at the MSU Habitat for Humanity project in Starkville, MS.
- Members and Advisor hosted a “Mummy Wrap” booth for children in the community as part of the MSU Campus Activities Board Halloween carnival.
- AIChE hosted Boy Scout Troop 27 in the first of two training sessions for our big spring Scouting Service project. 12 Scouts and sponsors participated in the LEGO Robotics activity that was offered to fifth and sixth grade students from city schools. **This was a major service project for AIChE this spring, running over seven Saturdays.**
- Volunteers served as judges at the Ward Stewart Elementary Science Fair—our local 4th/5th grade school.
- AIChE students and Advisor joined three Boy Scouts in the first of **five Eagle Robotics** days.
- AIChE students and Advisor directed a **three-session** workshop at the annual Women in Science and Technology Conference at East Mississippi Community College—a conference for high school women.
- AIChE members and Advisor hosted a picnic for the College of Engineering’s Summer Bridge program.



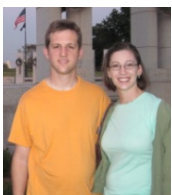
Sheena Reeves and Sasan Nouranian, PhD candidates in CHE, both completed the **Bagley College of Engineering Material Science Certificate** this spring. Ms. Reeves is advised by Dr. Priscilla Hill and Mr. Nouranian is advised by Dr. Hossein Toghiani.



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John Harden
BS, 2002 – PhD, 2006

I received my B.S. in Chemical Engineering from MSU in May 2002 and my Ph.D. in Engineering from MSU in May 2006 under the guidance of my major professor, Dr. Mark Zappi. I've been employed with Albemarle Corporation at their plant in Magnolia, Arkansas since May 2006. I am currently a Senior Chemical Engineer in the Process Technology group, and am currently working on a capital project at our joint venture plant on the Dead Sea in Jordan. I am also the Magnolia Plant contact for support with ChemCad and our corporate physical properties database. I've been married to my wife Grace Harden, the former Grace Luginbuhl, since March 2008. She's a 2006 chemical engineering graduate from Cleveland State University and a Unit Leader at Albemarle. We enjoy traveling in our free time and have visited Jamaica, Rome, Slovenia, Breckenridge, Yellowstone/Grand Tetons National Park, D.C., and New York City since getting married.

Michael Barrett
BS, 2002

Shelli, Kailey, and I have had a great year. After about ten years with CITGO, I resigned and started working for Seacor Energy as a trader. While this was a good



change for us, the best news was the addition of our newest family member. Jake Michael was born in November. We still live in Houston, Tx where we enjoyed getting to watch the dawgs play this year (MSU 47 UH 24)!

Tommy L. Brumfield
BS, 1982

Tommy L. Brumfield is employed with Shell Oil Company and currently located in Houston. I am married to Sally Brumfield who is also a Mississippi State Graduate. We have two children, one girl who is the oldest and a boy. Our daughter is a Junior at University of Alabama and our son is first year of Jr. college. He has plans to transfer to Mississippi State after two years. I also have a MS in Chemical engineering from the University of TN. In my current job title is principal consultant and travel quite a bit.

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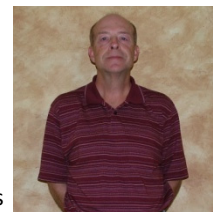
Katherine Taconi
BS, 2000 – PhD, 2004



In June of 2010, Katherine Taconi (B.S. 2000, Ph.D. 2004) and her son, Nikolas (age 5), relocated from Huntsville, AL, to College Station, TX. Katherine is currently the R&D Laboratory Director for Terrabon, a Houston-based biofuels company that is commercializing technology to produce gasoline from waste biomass. Katherine and Nikolas really love their new home in Texas. While mom is working, Nikolas attends kindergarten. In their free time, they enjoy boating with Katherine's family in Clear Lake and Galveston Bay, visiting Disney World, and assembling LEGOs.

Finally, I have started a Facebook page for MSU chemical engineering alumni. Alumni, faculty, and friends with a Facebook account can just search for "Mississippi State Chemical Engineering Alumni" in the search window when they are logged in to their Facebook account. The group is open to everyone, and I try to post events (like tailgates). If you happen to have a Facebook account and would like to post information on the page, that would be great. Currently, there are 130+ members, but I thought there might be more alumni out there who might like to join.

Mark Eckman
BS, 1982



I am living in Biloxi, MS and am the Production Capability Leader / Chemical Operations at Sabic Innovative Plastics, Bay St. Louis, MS. I am divorced with 3 children, 2 sons and one daughter. Mark Jr. is a Senior physics major at USM, Joshua is police officer for the Dept. of Army at Fort Polk, LA, and my daughter Christy is a hostess at a local restaurant in Biloxi.

Terry Greene
BS, 1979

I have been with Schlumberger 31 years in December, since graduation. Have worked in 14 locations around the world. Married 30 years (wife, Jo Ann) with two sons. Both sons received undergraduate degrees from Baylor University and Doctorates from the University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio, Texas. Currently based in Luanda, Angola, Africa, since August, 2005, and have lived in the U.S., Canada, Europe, Saudi Arabia and Africa.

David Lynch
BS, 1983

Currently working at the Pine Bluff Arsenal, Pine Bluff, Arkansas for URS Corp where I have been the Lead Furnace Engineer since 2000 and am now the Deputy Engineering Manager. URS has the contract to operate the Pine Bluff Chemical Disposal Facility where we have completed destruction the Army's stockpile of chemical weapons stored at Pine Bluff. We are now in the Closure phase of the project where we are decontaminating various building rooms and equipment prior to dismantling the facility.

Cindy and I have eight children; three girls, three boys and then "The Twins." Twin boys at age 44 are a must for any father who is searching for purpose at midlife, I wasn't but if you are, consider twins. Our house is seldom quiet and there is never a dull moment but my wife and family have provided me the most incredible life lessons. Almost every child has broken a house or car window and sometimes more than once. Double pane glass was designed by an engineer with several children; the insulating value is good but the redundancy is better. The twins broke the same door window twice before I had to completely replace the glass. Stephen is eight and has Down syndrome. Stephen jumped into our Honda Civic with a standard transmission. He managed to locate neutral and release the emergency break. The Twins jumped out and Stephen completed the wild ride backward into the woods where a tree totaled the Civic. And my 14 yr old son reminds me that Arkansas usually beats State in football. My 12 yr old son may be the engineer – I can tell by the warped sense of humor. The two oldest girls are in college and the third is planning to finish high school early and start college this fall. Cindy is threatening to room with one of the girls in college and leave me with the boys.



Started cycling a little and have found it a great get-away that allows Cindy and I some time together. Thankfully we have Brynna, our third daughter, and Grandparents nearby to keep the little guys. Camping with the boys, dates with Cindy, birthdays, holidays, house repairs and hair cuts. I'm lovin' life.

I will be staying with URS at Pine Bluff until sometime this summer when my part of the project will be complete. Opportunities with URS may take us to another part of the country but nothing definite at this point.



Michael Harris
BS, 1981

Michael "Mike" Harris (B.S. ChE '1981), the Associate Dean of Undergraduate Education and a Professor of Chemical Engineering in the College of Engineering at Purdue University, West Lafayette, was named a Fellow of AIChE and won the AIChE Minority Affairs Distinguished Service Award in 2009. He is also a member of the research team of the NSF supported Engineering Research Center (ERC), "The Center for Structured Organic Particulates" which won the 2010 Research Team Award in the College of Engineering at Purdue University. The lead institution for the research center is Rutgers University and the other partner institutions are NJIT, and the University of Puerto Rico-Marquez. Michael and wife of 27 years, Terry, reside in Lafayette, Indiana.



Stuart Everett
BS, 1993

Stuart is working for Eastman Chemical Company in Kingsport, TN as the Cellulose Esters Strategy Manager. After working for 10 years in pulp & paper, he made the move to the chemical industry and has worked for Eastman in various roles including Development Engineer, Engineering Group Leader, and his current CE Strategy Manager position. Stuart and Tonya have been married for 17 years and, along with their 3 children, thoroughly enjoy experiencing life in the great outdoors through whitewater kayaking, trail running, hiking the Appalachian Trail, and camping as often as possible. We don't get back to Starkville often, but we're holding our own up here in big orange country.

Go Dawgs!

John W. Hatmaker
BS, 1979

John W. Hatmaker, P.E. has been elected as a Director for the Oklahoma Society of Professional Engineers (OSPE) and has been elected President-elect of the Central-southwest Chapter of OSPE. Mr. Hatmaker is a 1979 chemical engineering graduate (MBA '85) and is Director-EH&S for Tronox LLC with responsibilities for global environment, health, safety and security.

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News



Julie Zielke
BS, 2003

I am currently working as an Environmental, Health, and Safety Specialist for the Chlor-Alkali business at The Dow Chemical Company in Freeport, Texas. I have been in Freeport for 6 years, working in various roles within Dow such as production engineer for Polyurethanes Market Development Production, production engineer for Epoxy Specialties, and supply chain planner for Polyglycol, Surfactants, and Performance Fluids businesses. I am a certified Greenbelt Project Leader using Six Sigma Methodology. I am also co-leader of the Women's Innovation Network Implementation Team for the Freeport site.

On a personal note, I have been married for 6 years now and Have a 19-month old daughter, Kylie. We are expecting our second child in November of this year.



Charles D. Taylor
BS, 1966 - MBA, 1971

After graduation from MSU, Charles joined PPG Industries as a Process Engineer in Lake Charles, Louisiana. After a leave fulfilling his Army ROTC Commission, he returned to PPG and later returned to Mississippi State to get an MBA. Soon after he was transferred to PPG's Corporate Headquarters in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania where he worked in the company's Chemical, Fiberglass, Glass and Corporate Business Groups managing several business units, planning departments, and corporate business ventures. Following his retirement from PPG, he was a consultant with NASA's Mid-Atlantic Technology Applications Center in Pittsburgh. He and his wife ZonaDale live in Collierville, TN. They are active the MSU Alumni Chapter, MSU Foundation and 4-H Foundation. Charles was named a Bagley College of Engineering Distinguished Fellow in 2005.

I am currently Vice President Health, Safety, Environment and Security for Afton Chemical in Richmond, VA. I reside with my wife, Evelyn, and 2 daughters, Lauren and Molly, in Chesterfield, VA.



John Street
BS, 1975

I have been employed as a Project/Process Engineer with Hunt Southland Refining Company since July/2004 in Sandersville, MS. Hunt Southland Refining is a subsidiary to the parent company, Hunt Refining Company of Tuscaloosa, Alabama. My duties include troubleshooting issues with the crude unit and overseeing major projects from initiation to completion.

Bobby Clark
BS, 1971



Jacob Palmer
BS, 2002

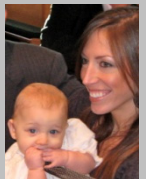
I have worked at The Dow Chemical Company since graduating from MSU in 2002. I'm currently the Operations Leader / Production Coordinator at the Methocel plant in Plaquemine, LA. I'm responsible for coordinating all production at the plant and for managing 24 Technicians. Since hiring on with Dow, I've had other roles as a process automation engineer in Plaquemine, as a reliability engineer for the Chlor-Alkali business in Freeport, TX, and the Production Engineer at the Chlorine plant in Plaquemine. Personally, I've been married since 2007. No kids. I'm attaching a recent picture of my wife (Rachel) & I at the Grand Canyon.

Jim Chapman
BS, 2000

Bonnie Chapman
BS, 1996



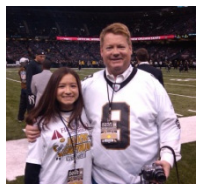
Juliana Kyle
BS, 2004



After working for Southern Company in Birmingham for 3 years, I decided to make a huge change and moved to Chapel Hill, NC to attend pharmacy school at the University of North Carolina. I am halfway through the program- just 2 years away from a PharmD! The other major piece of news in my life: I am the proud aunt and Godmother of my sister's beautiful 1-year-old, Ella.

Jim and Bonnie both are employed with Albemarle Corporation in the Catalyst Division and are located Clear Lake City, Texas (Houston area). Jim is an Account Manager in the sales group responsible for selling refinery catalysts to over 20 refineries in the US and Canada. Bonnie is responsible for Total Catalyst Management in the Americas, marketing Albemarle's regenerated and reactivated refinery catalysts and providing services to refineries during turnarounds. Jim and Bonnie have two children - James, age 3 and Audrey, age 1.

**John Hairston
BS, 1987**



John is CEO of Hancock Bank, and is married to Ann Jue Hairston who is also an '87 ChE graduate. Ann retired after a

career with Shell and UCISCO (Union Carbide) and is now raising their daughters. Their oldest daughter, Taylor, 17, will be a ChE at MSU in Fall '11 and daughter, Reagan, 15, will be at MSU, hopefully, in Fall '14.



An interesting note... John served as King D'Iberville, King of Mardi Gras for the Mississippi Gulf Coast, in the Spring (2010) and is the only ChE I know of that has held such a lofty position, **or as John put it, endured that insanity!**



We want you to tell us about you, your family, your job, your hobbies, your travel...! We will publish this newsletter each December so please watch for our email each November and be prepared to drop me a line and a photograph so that we can catch up with you!

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News**

**Ron Pitman
BS, 1998**



I am currently the Technical Service Manager for the Valero Houston Refinery. After my co-op with TPC in Houston, TX and graduation in December 1998, I started working for ExxonMobil at the Baytown Refinery as a process engineer, which was followed by assignments as a process controls engineer and complex engineer.

In 2003, Paige and I worked to complete our MBA degrees with finance emphasis from the University of Houston, which was complete with our first child, Grayson, being born two weeks after graduation.

In 2004, I started my career with Valero as a process engineer, completed an assignment in Planning & Economics for the Houston Refinery, and am currently the Technical Services Manager for the Refinery.

Our second child, Cara, was born in March of 2006, and our third child, Sadie, was born in February 2008.

We are currently living in Pearland, TX just south of Houston.



**Richard Johnston
BS, 1997**



After graduating from MSU in 1997, I went to medical school at UMC in Jackson where I later stayed for a residency in Internal Medicine followed by a year as Chief Resident. I then moved to Miami, FL where I took a fellowship in Gastroenterology at the University of Miami-Jackson Memorial Hospital. After completing my fellowship 18 months ago, I am now working for Gastroenterology Associates in Columbus, MS. My wife of 4 years whom I met when we were both at UMC just completed her residency training in Anesthesiology. We do not have children yet but are the proud parents of our Dachshund, Jack.

**Parisa Toghiani
BS, 2010**



Parisa Toghiani successfully completed the Florida Ironman held in Panama City, Florida, on Saturday, November 6, 2010. The Ironman competition is a 140.6 mile event including a 2.4 mile swim in the Gulf of Mexico, a 112 mile bike ride along the Florida coast and to finish it off, a 26.2 mile marathon. Parisa completed the Ironman competition in 13 hours, 51 minutes and 20 seconds. She has also qualified for and is planning to run the Boston Marathon in Spring 2011. Parisa is currently employed as a Operations Resource Engineer at Fritolay in Jonesboro, Arkansas.

